



# NEWS & INFORMATION

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## **Dedication celebrates cost and energy savings of IUB/OCA office building**

Today, Governor Terry E. Branstad joined the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) to celebrate the dedication of their new State office building, which actively models cost saving, energy reduction, and environmentally friendly features and ideas.

Governor Branstad said the cost conscious and highly energy efficient building demonstrates Iowa's commitment to lead by example and to offer innovative ideas for government and the public. IUB Chair Rob Berntsen said it was a proud day in the history of the IUB and OCA. Iowa's Consumer Advocate Mark Schuling said the building demonstrates the benefits of cost-effective energy efficiency programs.

The 44,460 square foot building is anticipated to use about 63 percent less energy than a typical office building of the same size, saving about \$36,000 a year. Geo-thermal heating and cooling technology accounts for the largest share of the energy savings. Other energy efficient features include super-efficient precast concrete wall panels with integrated edge-to-edge rigid insulation, daylight harvesting solar screens and a V-shaped design to make maximum use of daylight, lighting and occupancy sensors, special plug outlet controls, and operable windows for use on temperate days. Roof-mounted solar energy panels will provide about 12.5 percent of the total energy used.

BNIM Architects of Des Moines, the IUB, and the OCA have been named the commercial winner of the Built Environment Award in the Environmental Impact Awards of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Center on Sustainable Communities, and Metro Waste Authority. The awards honor local organizations and leaders for sustainability efforts in the Greater Des Moines area.

The IUB and OCA have already conducted many tours focusing on the energy efficiency aspects of their new office building. Participants have included individuals from utilities, utility industry groups, colleges and universities, and other interested organizations from the general public. State of Iowa employees toured the new building on Earth Day last week and today's event included an open house and tours.

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From 1998 to January 2011, the IUB and OCA spent nearly \$8 million in rent at their previous office space and had no building to show for it at the end of that period. In contrast, the State of Iowa will own this rent-free building. Employees of both agencies moved into the new building on January 18, 2011.

The ground breaking ceremony for the new office building was held in July 2009 and its construction began in August 2009. BNIM designed the office building and has coordinated closely with the IUB and OCA in implementing its energy efficient and environmentally friendly features. J. P. Cullen of Janesville, Wisconsin, was the general contractor.

The IUB is a full time three-member panel appointed by the Governor to oversee rate, service reliability, technical, and safety standards of energy and telecommunications service providers in the state. The OCA is a division of the Attorney General's Office and represents the general interests of consumers in matters before the IUB. By state law, the two agencies are required to be co-located in the same facilities while maintaining office space independent of one another.

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